

**SOUTHWEST AREA INTERAGENCY ENGINE OPERATOR'S MEETING**  
**November 13, 2002 - Flagstaff, Arizona**

The meeting was held in an attempt to "resurrect" the Southwest Area Engine Operator's Committee. The meeting was held in conjunction with the Southwest Fire Council (SWFCO) at Little America Hotel in Flagstaff, AZ on 11/13/2002 from 0800-1700 hours.

The primary facilitator for the meeting was Bequi Livingston, representative from the Southwest Regional Office with Tony Sciacca, Prescott NF present as an advisor and "ad hoc" member. Bobby Shindelar, Santa Fe NF, was also present as the Southwest Area Fire Fleet and Equipment Committee Chair. Others present included, Tom Beddow, A/S NF and John Thompson, A/S NF as both FMO representative and Work Force Group representative.

**Meeting was called to order @ 0814 on 11/13/2002:**

- Welcome, Introductions and overview of meeting - discuss agenda (Bequi L)
- Opening comments, "Positioning Ourselves for The Future" (Todd Lerke). All risk preparedness and response challenges (as discussed at International Association of Chiefs meeting in Orlando, Florida). Includes EMT, vehicle incidents, structural and terrorism. Are we prepared to respond?
- Fire Fleet/Equipment committee (USFS) overview (Bobby Shindelar). Recruit committee members (FS only) for standardization of equipment, research, and identify safety issues. Work with San Dimas Technology Center and make recommendations to units and Regional Fleet Manager.
- (Tony Sciacca) - discuss upgrades for engine operators and Work Force Group items. Recommendations for committee: don't sit on your hands, do something positive. Need common terminology for positions, terms, etc... and develop working/ad hoc groups under committee. Need to develop SOP's/operating guidelines (provided copies of Prescott NF SOP's as example). Management has the discretion when determining terms of appointments - not the issue, roles and responsibilities are som don't get hung up on only wanting an upgrade and don't compare R3 to R5. R3 is unique and special - treat R3 that way. Be a professional - take charge of yourself and your module - be a leader!
- R3 AFM Work Force Group: recent discussion with Human Resources regarding Engine Operators, Coordinators, Tanker Base Managers, and Prevention. Very close to upgrades but Tony can use a few folks to help him review T3 Engine Captain PD's so he can develop a briefing paper for the Southwest Coordinating Group meeting on 01/23. Old PD's

used classification term "physical dispersement which was confusing. Current PD's from R6 (GS-5,6,7,8 career). In closing, this committee needs to pick out and prioritize the issues that are most important as a group. Determine if your issues are local, regional, or national. Think outside the box! Have a collective voice - persevere.... Choose your battles wisely ... attitude is important. Be reasonable, prudent, and professional!

- (Tom Beddow) Work Force Group member. Avoid addressing this as only an "upgrade issue"... your approach is important. Positions are reviewed for NFMAS through 2005 (using the upgrade structure).
- Arizona Wildland Fire Academy: Don Howard (Flagstaff FD) and Kory Kirkpatrick (Academy Coordinator) presentation - Accademy will be held March 11-16, 2003 in Prescott, AZ at Emery Riddle Aeronautical Center. Entry level courses - first time held in Arizona. Need recruits for Academy including Instructors. Please market!
- Training opportunities - the committee needs to develop a work force or sub committee to identify needed training for the Southwest Area Engine Operators. Lots of training available including Fireline Leadership, Sand Table Exercises, and Emergency Vehicle (lights and siren) training. Confusion with PMS 310-1 versus 5109.17 and red book interpretations. Need standardization for training. (Tony) Information is power! Understand the policy regarding task books and guidelines and take personal responsibility in IDP (Individual Development Planning). (show some of the available training materials).... provide copies of "Lessons Learned - Thirtymile".
- Discussion on training for temporary employees and the hassles associated. There are some opportunities to bring them on as an AD to get the "80 - hour" refresher training. (Tony) Surround yourself with smart people! Take charge of your destiny.
- Committee needs to agree on priority items for committee that are realistic- don't get caught up on mundane issues. Be aware of your "scope and responsibilities" and understand the "30-Mile Abatement Plan".
- The committee should consider an annual Engine Academy as in the past. Inlcuded should be to develop a database for committee members and others.
- Wellness and fitness are still a priority and the Work Capacity Test (WCT) is here to stay for now... Maintaining fitness year round is critical for ALL fire personnel. The WCT is a good test for "work capacity" - it is not a "fitness test" - don't compare the two. Today's fire behavior will only increase with each year as will the demands on all fire personnel physically and mentally - we need to all be prepared equally and prepared for the worst

case scenario irregardless of position (engine, hotshot, etc..). Fire is not biased! WCT is a fair test if person is fully prepared and provided the information to prepare. The documentation process is a mess especially still having to do HSQ's through HR... the medical standards are "looming" in the future and may change things more still. For now, business as usual... Still plan on the same process for FS folks and DOI folks use their DOI processes. (Bequi) I have a presentation ("fireline fitness" that is available to help set up a fitness program and give a better understanding to the whole process of fitness and the WCT.

- **LUNCH BREAK (1130-1300)**

- Discussion of old Engine Committee working Group and old charter (Jeff Rippe, Coconino NF). Initial engine group meeting in 1989 - last meeting in 1997. Engine Academy is crucial and should include "hydraulics training". Need to keep to specific apparatus roles (pump & roll, support). Lots of frustration then especially with PD's and upgrades. The success of this committee depends on the leadership of the group...elect chair who listens well and has confidentiality. Choose your battles wisely and make sure that the entire group supports the chair, Identify your objectives and realistic strategy.
- The primary issues that the group felt were important for the committee to prioritize are: standardized training (including Engine Academy), PD's, upgrades and standard qualifications, Developing SOP's (including standard terminology), and recruitment and retention of engine folks in R3.
- Nominations of SWAEOC: nominees were either self-nominated or nominated by another person. Each nominee was asked to give a 3-5 minute speech about themselves and why they would like the position.

**CHAIR SELECT:** **Todd Rhines, USFS, Prescott, NF**

**NOMINEES:** Dave Bales (USFS)  
Keith Halloran (USFS)  
Beale Monday (USFS)  
Bob Travis (USFS)

**VICE-CHAIR:** **Dave Bales, USFS,**

**NOMINEES:** Steve Palmer (USFS)  
Steve Wallace (USFS)  
Virgil Reynolds (USFS)  
Jim Minturn (USFS)  
Mike tucker (USFS)  
Bob Travis (USFS)

**RECORDING SECRETARY: Keith Halloran, USFS**

NOMINEES: Mike Tucker (USFS)  
Mary Greiner (USFS)

**CHAIR/VICE CHAIR** Mike Tucker - Arizona  
**MENTORS:** Virgil Reynolds - New Mexico

NOMINEES: Beale Monday (USFS)  
Darrel Walker (BIA-ZUNI)  
Todd Lerke (USFS)

It was then decided that the group would reschedule another meeting in the next few weeks to discuss the charter and SOP's with better interagency representation. There were primarily USFS presence with 1 NPS and 3 BIA reps (2 of the White Mountain-BIA reps left the meeting early. Everyone was given copies of the old working group charter and the revised charter template to review for the next meeting. Copies of the Prescott NF SOP's were also handed out as well as copies of USFS PD's for upgrades. Each person was asked to inform as many people as they could (interagency) to the next meeting for better representation.

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, December 3 in Albuquerque, NM possibly at the Fire Use Training Academy facility. The Southwest Fire Fleet meeting to be held on Wednesday, December 3 at the same facility. The group then convened and those who were interested in participating on the Fire Fleet/Equipment committee were asked to stay to discuss the committee with bobby Shindelar.

Submitted by: Bequi Livingston, R3 Committee  
representative

November 15, 2002